

Claims

1. A method for the manufacture of a functionalised polyolefin by free radical grafting of a polyolefin with a monomer in the presence of 0.5 to 25 weight percent, based on the total weight of polyolefin and monomer, of a propylene polymer and/or copolymer which propylene polymer or copolymer comprises a free radical initiator distributed therein.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the polyolefin is an ethylene homopolymer.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the polyolefin is an ethylene/C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin copolymer.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the propylene polymer is a propylene homopolymer.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the propylene copolymer is a propylene/C₄-C₁₀ α -olefin copolymer.
6. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the free radical initiator is homogenously distributed in the propylene polymer and/or copolymer.
7. A method according to Claim 6 where the free radical initiator is a peroxide used in an amount of from 500 to 10,000 weight parts per million parts of polyolefin and monomer.
8. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated compound comprising a carbonyl group which is conjugated with a double bond of the ethylenically unsaturated compound.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the monomer is selected from the group of maleic acid, maleic

anhydride, acrylic acid and glycidyl methacrylate.

10. A functionalised polyolefin obtained by the method according to Claim 1.
11. A functionalised polyolefin according to claim 10 having a graft level from 0.1 to 4 percent by weight.
12. A bicomponent fiber comprising a core component and a sheath component, said sheath component comprising a functionalised polyolefin of Claim 10.
13. A bicomponent fiber according to claim 12, wherein the core component comprises a polyester, a polyolefin and/or a polyamide.
14. The bicomponent fiber according to claim 12 wherein the core component is selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a polyolefin, a polyamide, or combinations thereof.
15. A bicomponent fiber according to claim 13 wherein the sheath component comprises a blend of the functionalised polyolefin of Claim 10.
16. A bicomponent fiber according to claim 15, the sheath component comprising 1 to 30 weight percent, based on the total weight of the blend, of the functionalised polyolefin.
17. A nonwoven comprising a functionalised polyolefin of Claim 10.
18. A nonwoven comprising a bicomponent fiber of Claim 12.
19. A hygienic absorbent product comprising the nonwoven of Claim 18.